

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action issued January 13, 2006, claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Machida et al., U.S. Pub No. 2001/0027375, (hereinafter "Machida") in view of Asai et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,421,606, (hereinafter "Asai").

Claims 1-15 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, and 11 have been amended to more particularly point out the subject matter that the inventor considers to be the invention. No new matter has been added.

The applicant respectfully submits that the present invention, according to amended claim 1, and correspondingly to amended claims 6 and 11, is not unpatentable over Machida in view of Asai. Machida teaches a storage unit for storing information relating to car navigation. The information consists primarily of route data as shown in Figures 12 through 17. Additionally, Asai teaches a route guiding apparatus provides information for a route using public transportation as an alternative to a vehicular route. In particular, Asai discloses a navigation controller for judging a mode of user transportation by the user's traveling speed.

By contrast, the present invention, according to amended claim 1, and, correspondingly, to claims 6 and 11, requires estimating a next stop of the mode of user transportation based on the specific location of the second storage unit and the mode of user transportation, and extracting at least one item of area information specific to the next stop from the first storage unit. The next stop of the mode of user transportation is the next location at which the transportation can or will stop. For example, a car on an expressway can stop at the next exit, but cannot normally stop between exits. A train will stop at its next station stop. A user on a train cannot go to stores or other facilities around the train's railway track, because the train is moving and cannot stop anywhere the user wants. Likewise for planes and ships. The present

invention estimating a next stop of the mode of user transportation and extracts area information specific to the next stop of the mode of user transportation, which varies depending upon the mode of user transportation. The combination of Machida and Asai does not disclose or suggest these required features of the present invention.

Therefore, the present invention according to claims 1, 6, and 11, and according to claims 2-5, 7-10, and 12-15, which depend therefrom, is not unpatentable over Machida in view of Asai.

Each of the claims now pending in this application is believed to define an invention that is novel and nonobvious over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

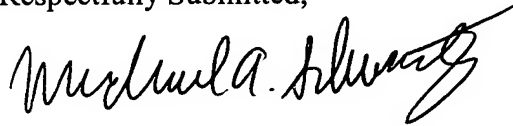
Additional Fees:

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-5127 (19546.0044).

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all of the Examiner's rejections to the claims are believed to be overcome. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all the claims remaining in the application. Should the Examiner feel further communication would facilitate prosecution, he is urged to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Schwartz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael A. Schwartz
Reg. No. 40,161

Dated: May 8, 2006

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